

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SECSTATE FOR EUR/WE; EUR/RPM
USICA FOR PGM/F
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION AMBASSADOR TODMAN

1. LEFT CENTER NEWSWEEKLY CAMBIO 16 TODAY CARRIED
ARTICLE ON AMBASSADOR TODMAN ILLUSTRATED BY NOW
FAMOUS PHOTO OF AMBASSADOR SHAKING HANDS WITH
PINOCHET.

2. ARTICLE IS HEADLINED: "A DANGEROUS IDEOLOGUE."
SUBHEAD READS: "THE NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR,
TERENCE TODMAN, CONFIRMED HIS POSITION AS AN
IDEOLOGUE WITH RIGHTIST PROCLIVITIES BY INTERVENING
WITH CARTER IN FAVOR OF DOMINICAN PRESIDENT BALAGUER.
THE SENATE CONFIRMED HIM WITHOUT OBJECTIONS."

3. ARTICLE LEADS OFF AS FOLLOWS: "FOUR DAYS BEFORE.
APPEARING BEFORE THE NORTHAMERICAN SENATORS, WHO
WERE SUPPOSED TO EXAMINE HIS NOMINATION AS AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN, THE DIPLOMAT SUCCEEDED IN
CONVINCING PRESIDENT CARTER NOT TO ACT MORE
ENERGETICALLY AGAINST PRESIDENT BALAGUER OF THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WHO ATTEMPTED AN "AUTO COUP
D'ETAT" TO PREVENT A TRIUMPHANT OPPOSITION FROM
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REPLACING HIM IN POWER."

4. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY: "THE NEW AMBASSADOR
IN MADRID STATES THAT SPAIN IS NOT RACIST AND THAT
HE, TERENCE TODMAN, A GREAT FRIEND OF SPAIN, BELIEVES
THAT SPANIARDS SHOULD DECIDE 'FOR THEMSELVES' WHETHER
OR NOT THEY SHOULD ENTER NATO."

5. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT TODMAN MADE THESE STATEMENTS TO A GROUP OF NEWSMEN OUTSIDE THE SENATE HEARING ROOM FOLLOWING HIS ACCEPTANCE BY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN AN EFFORT TO CHANGE HIS IMAGE AND RID HIMSELF OF THE ONE WHICH GAINED HIM THE SYMPATHY OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN DICTATORS. THE MAGAZINE QUOTES THE WASHINGTON POST AS SAYING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD INTENDED TO ACT MORE ENERGETICALLY IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BUT WAS PERSUADED NOT TO BY A REPORT FROM TODMAN TO SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE WHICH WAS PASSED ON TO THE PRESIDENT.

6. CAMBIO THEN CITES THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL FOR HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS (SIC): "THE ERROR OF THIS NOMINATION IS NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT TODMAN MERITS AN IMPORTANT EMBASSY. IF HE HAD BEEN SENT TO GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE OR THE SOVIET UNION, NATIONS WITH STABLE POLITICAL SYSTEMS, THE NOMINATION WOULD NOT BE IMPORTANT. WHAT IS INAPPROPRIATE IS THAT TODMAN, WITH HIS WELL KNOWN CONSERVATIVE ATTITUDES, SHOULD BE SENT TO A COUNTRY SUCH AS SPAIN WHICH IS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF CREATING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. IT IS A MYTH THAT TODMAN IS A POLITICALLY NEUTRAL CAREER DIPLOMAT. UNCLASSIFIED

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HE IS AN IDEOLOGUE TO THE CORE AND, UNFORTUNATELY, HIS IDEOLOGY HAS OFFERED GREAT RELIEF TO THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIPS IN LATINAMERICA."

7. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY NOTING THAT THE DISCONTENT OF THE LEFT AND CERTAIN MILITARY CIRCLES IN SPAIN WITH THE CAMPAIGN TO PERSUADE SPAIN TO ENTER NATO HAS RESULTED IN A DAMPENING DOWN OF U.S. DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES AND SUGGESTS THAT PRESIDENT SUAREZ CANCELLED HIS TRIP TO THE U.S. AND TODMAN DELAYED HIS ARRIVAL IN MADRID UNTIL THE SITUATION CALMED DOWN.

8. COMMENT: ARTICLE IS TYPICAL CAMBIO 16 MIX OF MISINFORMATION AND DISTORTION DESIGNED TO DISCREDIT U.S. ACTIONS AND MOTIVES. NO OTHER ARTICLES HOSTILE TO AMBASSADOR TODMAN HAVE APPEARED IN RECENT WEEKS.

9. POST WOULD APPRECIATE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON COUNCIL FOR HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS CITED ABOVE. RYLANCE

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